

4-1965

Nebraska Bird Review (April 1965) 33(2), WHOLE ISSUE

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The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

VOLUME XXXIII

APRIL, 1965

NUMBER 2



Published by the
NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, INC.

Founded 1899

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Study of Nesting Dickcissels in Nebraska	22
Honorary Members—Leroy M. Gates	25
Miss Doris B. Gates	26
In Memoriam—Frederick Ira Day	26
Book Reviews	27
Wintering Sandhill Cranes in Lincoln County	28
1964 Christmas Count	29
Comments	32

Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union as its official journal and sent free to all members who are not in arrears for dues. Subscriptions at \$3.50 per volume in the United States and \$3.75 in all countries, payable in advance. Single numbers, \$1.00 each. All dues and subscriptions should be remitted to the Treasurer, Lee Morris, Bradshaw, Nebraska. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Custodian, Miss Bertha Winter, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor, R. G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68132.

A Study of Nesting Dickcissels in Nebraska

Dale A. Von Steen

This study was initiated because of an interest in the nesting habits of dickcissels (*Spiza americana*). From June 15 to July 25, 1963, data were gathered while searching for ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) nests on the Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area which is owned and managed by the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission.

I wish to thank Dr. Raymond L. Linder, Professor of Wildlife Management at South Dakota State University and Richard J. Spady, Area Manager, for their time and helpful suggestions. I also want to thank the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission for allowing me the time to collect this information in conjunction with the Pittman-Robertson Project, W-28-R.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA Location

Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area is located in Phelps County, 3 miles west of Wilcox, Nebraska. The area is legally described as follows: all of Section 27 and 28; SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 21; S $\frac{1}{2}$ of 22; the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 29; N $\frac{1}{2}$ of 33, T.5 N., R. 17 W. 6th P.M. The area is approximately 2300 acres in size and is managed primarily for duck production and hunting. The area is also managed secondarily for ring-necked pheasant production and hunting.

Physiographic features

The mean annual precipitation for the area is 22.94 inches. The mean temperatures are 26.2F for the month of January and 78F for the month of July. General soil types vary from a heavy lagoon type soil which has an impervious clay sub-soil (Scott series) to soils which are

cultivated (Holdrege Silt Loam). Agriculture crops are managed for wildlife food and cover. Corn, wheat and milo are the main agriculture crops on the area. There are 6 irrigation pumps on the area which are used intensively during the growing season.

Wildlife present

The major wildlife species found on the Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area are: ring-necked pheasant, cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and coyote (*Canis latrans*). Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), common snipe (*Capella gallinago*) and blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*) are found only in season. Mallards and blue-winged teals are produced on the area in wet years. White-tailed deer are increasing in numbers.

RESULTS

Nesting study

Ten nests were found during the study period. Eight nests contained dickcissel eggs and were classified as active. The remaining two nests did not contain dickcissel eggs and were classified as inactive. The active nests produced a total of 25 dickcissel eggs and 19 brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs. All of the active nests were destroyed by some unknown factor before the eggs hatched or soon after hatching. Hatching success for the dickcissel and cowbird was 24% and 43% respectively (Table 1).

The distance from the ground level to the top of the nest varied from 15.2 cm to 81.3 cm with the mean being 34.3 cm (from 9 nests). Overmire (1962) found that the mean distance to be 126 cm. Nesting sites (Table 1) were selected in wild rose

Table 1. Nesting data for dickcissels.

Nest No.	Height above ground (centimeters)	Site	Number of eggs	
			dickcissel	cowbird
1	15.2	alfalfa	2	2
2	20.3	wild lettuce	3	2
3	15.7	smooth brome	4	4
4	81.3	wild rose	4	0
5	15.2	alfalfa	4	3
6	25.6	summer cypress	3	1
7*	63.5	wild rose	0	3
8*	—	alfalfa	0	1
9	45.7	wild rose	3	2
10	15.2	smartweed	2	1
Total			25	19

*Inactive nests

Table 2. Growth rate of the right wing primaries of 2 nestlings dickcissels.

Date of hatching	Nestling	Date of measurements	Measurement of right wing primaries (millimeters)								
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
June 20	A	June 25	21	21	21	21	21	20	20	18	15
	B		22	22	22	21	21	20	18	16	13
	A	June 26	25	26	26	26	26	25	22	20	19
	B		26	26	27	27	26	25	23	20	17

Table 3. Measurements of 8 dickcissel eggs.

Measurement	Range	Mean
Length (inches)	0.775—0.882	0.827
Width (inches)	0.614—0.638	0.626
Volume (cubic centimeters)	2.5—2.9	2.6

(*Rosa* sp.), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), summer cypress (*Kochia scoparia*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca* sp.) and smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.). Wild rose and alfalfa were used 60% of the time as nesting sites while one nest or 10% was found in each of the remaining vegetative sites.

The right wing primaries were measured on 2 nestlings to determine the rate of feather development. The nestlings were lost or destroyed by some unknown factor before complete measurements could be taken. Table 2 illustrates the rate of growth of the primary wing feathers. An average of 4.3 mm was developed in one day.

Measurements of 8 dickcissel eggs

were taken to determine their relative size (Table 3). The linear measurements were taken with a micrometer and the volume was measured by water displacement using a graduated cylinder. The mean length was 0.827 inches, the width was 0.626 inches and the volume was 2.6 cubic centimeters.

Overmire (1962) measured 70 nests and found the mean dimensions to be as follows: inside diameter 57.4 X 63.5 mm, outside diameter 94.9 X 106.0 mm inside depth 47.5 mm and the outside depth 83.4 mm. Five nests were measured during the study and their mean dimensions were inside diameter 59.2 mm, outside diameter 84.6 mm, inside depth 49.3 mm and the outside depth 81.0 mm (Table 4).

Table 4. Dimensions of 5 dickcissel nests.

Measurement	Range (inches)	Mean (inches)	Mean (millimeters)
Inside diameter	2.25—2.50	2.33	59.2
Outside diameter	3.25—3.50	3.33	84.6
Inside depth	1.75—2.00	1.94	49.3
Outside depth	2.75—3.50	3.19	81.0

Behavior observations

The nesting territory was observed to be defended by the male. The male selected a perch and called an average of 11 times per minute. On days of high temperatures, little or no calling was heard. On one occasion the male displayed the broken wing act very vigorously while defending territory from human intrusion. During the incubation period, only the female was ever flushed from the nest. The female displayed a broken wing act, called loudly and stayed relatively close to the nesting site when disturbed from the nest. Only the female was observed feeding the nestlings. The female would perch for a short time before leaving the territory and would return to the same perch before returning to the nesting site.

SUMMARY

1. Nesting data were gathered on dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) from June 15 to July 25, 1963. The study was done on the Sacramento-Wilcox Game Management Area which is located in Phelps County, 3 miles west of Wilcox, Nebraska.
2. The mean temperatures for the area are 26.2F for the month of January and 78F for the month of July. The mean annual precipitation is 22.94 inches. Soils vary from an impervious clay to a cultivated loam.
3. Major wildlife species present are ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), common snipe (*Capella gallinago*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).
4. Ten dickcissel nests were found during the study period which produce a total of 25 dickcissel eggs

and 19 brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs. Hatching success for the dickcissel and cowbird eggs was 24% and 43% respectively. All nests were destroyed by some unknown factor before the eggs hatched or soon after hatching.

5. The average nest height above the ground was 34.3 cm (from 9 nests).

6. Nesting sites were selected 60% of the time in wild rose (*Rosa* sp.) and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). Smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), summer cypress (*Kochia scoparia*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca* sp.) and smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.) were each used 10% of the time.

7. The right wing primaries of 2 nestlings were measured to determine the rate of feather development. The mean development that was grown in one day was 4.3 mm.

8. Measurements of dickcissel eggs were taken. The mean dimensions of the length, width and volume are 0.827 inches, 0.626 inches and 2.6 cubic centimeters respectively.

9. Measurements were taken to determine the relative size of the nest. The mean dimensions are as follows: inside diameter 59.2 mm, outside diameter 84.6 mm, inside depth 49.3 mm and outside depth 81.0 mm.

10. Only the female was observed feeding the nestlings. The male defended the territory by calling and averaged 11 calls per minute. Both the male and female displayed broken wing acts.

LITERATURE CITED

Overmire, T. G. 1962. Nesting of the dickcissel in Oklahoma. Auk 79:115-116.

Watertown, South Dakota

HONORARY MEMBERS



Leroy M. Gates

Leroy Gates (better known as Roy) was born June 22, 1891, at Syracuse, Nebr., in a Methodist minister's family. He had opportunities to live in a number of Nebraska communities in the southeastern part of the state in the early years and later spent some time in northwestern Nebraska. His first remembered interest in birds occurred at Peru where he now lives. He remembers distinctly W. Edgar Taylor who was one of the early students of birds in Nebraska and who was on the faculty at Peru State College at that time.

Later, while living in Lincoln, Mr. Gates was influenced to attend the University of Nebraska to study under Professors Lawrence Bruner and Myron Swenk because of his interest in nature study. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1913. He became Field Expert for the Entomology Department,

a position he held until September, 1915, when he and Mrs. Gates moved to Chadron, Nebr. During his university years he was associated with Drs. John T. Zimmer, R. W. Dawson, and C. E. Mickel. While he heard much of the work of M. A. Carriker and Merrit Cary in western Nebraska, he did not know them personally.

Bird trips of special interest were a Christmas vacation spent collecting birds at Rulo, Nebr., with Dr. Zimmer, and numerous field trips to Steven's Creek near Lincoln with Dr. Dawson. The trips in and near Lincoln were often made with a horse and buggy. He likes to tell of the time he tried to keep the horse quiet while Dr. Zimmer tried to collect a hawk from the side of the road. He missed. Another time, the horse that was tied at the side of the road when he and Dr. Dawson were birding along Steven's Creek became weary of the wait and wandered away. The man who found him led him to a stable in Elmwood where Mr. Gates had to go to reclaim him.

Later, when located in Scotts Bluff County, he reported on the nesting of the Brewer's Sparrow in large numbers on and near the Experiment Station near Mitchell. The nests were in the alfalfa plants. Other birds noted and photographed in Scotts Bluff and Dawes Counties were the Sennett's Nighthawk, Desert Horned Lark, and other western species. Of special interest were the Lewis' Woodpecker, Clarke's Nutcracker, Poor-will, and a Gray-crowned Leucosticte as the Rosy Finch was called then.

After spending 10 years ranching near Chadron and two years at Manhattan, Kansas, with the Entomology Department of the University, he moved back to Lincoln where he was State Entomologist for 21 years.

Mr. Gates retired to the Joy Hill Acres at Peru in 1948 where he is happily located at the scene of his first birding experiences. In the spring of 1964 he was among those who heard and saw the first Chuck-will's-widow to be reported from Nebraska. It was on the farm across the road from his home.

Mr. Gates served as president of N.O.U. in 1935 and as treasurer from 1937 to 1943. He was elected to Honorary Membership at the May meeting of 1964. The Gateses, who have four children, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the summer of 1964.



Miss Doris B. Gates

Miss Doris Gates, elected to Honorary Membership of The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at the 1964 annual meeting held in Ogallala, has been a naturalist for as long as she can remember. Born April 12, 1915, she moved with her family to a farm near Chadron when she was nine months old and her earliest remem-

brances are of streams, trees and grasslands, and the interesting butte rock formations of the Pine Ridge. Though her family moved to Lincoln when she was less than ten years old and they lived there most of her growing-up years, the early impressions remained. In 1955 she returned as an instructor in biology at Chadron State College, and she lives in a little house built close to the buttes seven miles south of the city.

Miss Gates received both the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Nebraska with emphasis of study in Entomology, Zoology and Botany. After teaching for three years at Huntley, Nebr., she moved to North Platte where she taught until 1955 with the exception of two years when she was on the staff of the Entomology Department at the University of Nebraska.

Miss Gates has held offices continually in The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union since 1947 being secretary, president, and editor of The Nebraska Bird Review.

In Memoriam

Fredrick Ira Day was born in Superior, Nebraska, February 10, 1888 and died there October 6, 1964. He lived his entire life in the same block in which he was born. In 1914 he married Katherine Hale, of Fairbury, who died several years ago. He is survived by two children: Elizabeth (Mrs. William Kennedy) and George, and by two sisters: Mrs. Josephine Day Mendell and Miss Marian Day. He had been a member of NOU for over a decade and had attended various NOU meetings with his sister, Miss Day, who has been a member of NOU for about 30 years. His wife's niece, Mrs. Roy Witschy, is also a NOU member.

Book Reviews

BIRDS OVER AMERICA—by Roger Tory Peterson. New and Revised Edition. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1964. 342 pages, 105 photographs (80 pages) by the author. \$7.50.

This book, first published in 1948, won the John Burroughs Award. Actually, there is not much in the book that needs to be brought up to date, and so there is not much in it to get out of date. The many black-and-white photographs and the stories of birds, bird-watchers, and bird-watching are timeless. The author talks about "the lure of the list", Christmas counts, various rare (e.g. Sutton's Warbler, Ivory-billed Woodpecker) or hard to find or see birds, bird migration with special regard to Hawk Mountain and Cape May, falconry, eagles, barn owls, the damage to bird-life from "manicuring" the landscape, how clearing much of the original timber from the Northeast probably made a better habitat for song birds, "Even pollution, provided it is not chemical waste, can at times be attractive to wild life", and many other things, ranging geographically over the whole country. The accounts are mostly tied in to his own experiences, but in a way that increases rather than decreases the interest. He doesn't mind telling of his mistakes and errors, as well as his successes. Probably everyone who has been similarly fooled will enjoy reading of his identifying the silhouette of a piece of bark as a long-eared owl, or taking decoys for real ducks (its nice to know that even the experts make mistakes at times). Anyone who likes bird-watching or just bird-reading should enjoy reading this book. It has a two-page "Photographic Postscript" for the benefit of photographers.

Ed.

A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS—A. Landsborough Thomson, Editor. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 16 pages of color plates, 32 pages of black-and-white photographs, over 300 line drawings, 928 pages. \$17.50.

For its Centenary in 1959 the British Ornithologists' Union undertook three special enterprises: two were ornithological expeditions and the third was the preparation of this book, which is the result of the co-operation of many specialists from all over the world.

The Editorial Introduction reads in part:

"Aim. The book is intended for readers of several different types—the general reader who wishes to extend his knowledge of birds or perhaps just to inform himself on particular points; the ornithologist who requires information outside his individual field of expertise; and the biologist who wishes to draw upon the specialised subject-matter of ornithology.

"Largely for the non-professional ornithologist, it has been thought convenient to include certain 'background' information from other branches of science concerned with environmental factors affecting bird-life, such as climate and vegetation; and also from the main corpus of biological knowledge, dealing with such aspects as evolution and genetics. There is likewise an article on the application of statistical methods.

"Another supplementary feature, of potential interest to all types of reader, is the group of articles on birds in human culture—for instance, as subjects of folk-lore, literature, and the arts.

"Scope. The information presented is of two main kinds. First, there is information on general subjects relating to birds as a class—their

structure, evolution, distribution, and classification; their life histories and behaviour; their adaptations to their environment; and their relations with mankind. Second, there is information on different kinds of birds, for this purpose treated mainly by families. The major articles of both these types are cited in logical sequence in the two lists that amplify the general table of contents; these lists give a more detailed indication of the scope of the work, and they should help the reader to choose the alphabetical headings under which he should look for any particular subject."

The first of the lists mentioned above should allow those who wish to do so to use the Dictionary as a textbook of ornithology as well as for its main purpose.

As a dictionary it is hard to imagine a reference book with more authority behind it. But it is a British book, with British terms (but "banding" is cross-referenced to "ringing") and British spelling. "Specialised" and "behaviour" in the quotation above, "hybridise", "hybridisation" and similar spellings look odd but should not cause trouble, but some others, e.g. "Palaeartic" (the article starts out with a note that the American usage is "palearctic", but there is no cross-reference under the latter) might be the cause of some searching. The fact the producers were dealing with a non-British bird undoubtedly explains the labeling of the illustration for "Flycatcher (2)" as "Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*". The illustration is not necessary to the article, and anyone even slightly acquainted with the birds of this area would know it was incorrectly titled. (It apparently is the Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Muscivora tyrannus tyrannus*.)

The Plates are referred to only by number, but an index from Plate number to the number of the facing page is given on pages 21 and 22.

But none of these points are serious and the book has a wealth of information. Local clubs may want to buy it for themselves, or to suggest its purchase to their local public library. Ed.

WINTERING SANDHILL CRANES IN LINCOLN COUNTY

In early December, 1964, friends who live along the North Platte River north of Hershey sent word to me that a flock of Sandhill Cranes were still lingering along the river near their home. It was not possible for me to go look for the Cranes at that time, but they were reported to me several times throughout December. One friend made a count of them in mid-December and reported that there were approximately 50 birds in the flock.

On January 3, 1965, Mrs. James McIntosh and I were birding in the Hershey area and toward evening saw 4 Sandhill Cranes in flight. They went down near the river, but we could not get to them to see if there might be more Cranes there. Several people saw the cranes in January, but never more than a few at a time so it is possible that not all of the 50 cranes stayed for the winter. On February 13, Robert Wheeler, an employee of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, counted 32 Cranes in a flock in this area, but by that date it would be possible for the birds to have migrated from the south. Gail Shickley, North Platte.

1964 Christmas Count

Reports were received from seven areas, two of which (Omaha and Plattsmouth) overlapped to some extent. Flickers have been listed as Yellow-shafted and as Red-shafted when so designated in the report, although, as Short pointed out in the *Review* (29:14), almost all flickers in the state are hybrids to some degree. Juncos have been listed as Slate-colored or Oregon although hybridization is common with them, too. The description of Meadowlarks as Eastern (e), Western (w), or undesignated (x) given in the reports has been followed, but in this case no report shows more than one type. In no case was the reason for the identification given; presumably it was expectation rather than song.

Hastings. December 28, 1964. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Two parties of four each. Ollie Anderson, Carrie Hanson, Bill Fink, Vera Maunder, Ellen Ritchey, Ruth Stein, Wanda Snyder, Margaret Jones (reporter). The count is small because Burton Nelson was sick and no one took the walk along the river that he always takes. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Common Grackle were seen before and after the count, but not during it.

Kearney. January 2, 1965. 7:45 A.M. to 5:15 P.M. Clear, 14° to 40° F.; wind calm, no snow on ground, river 20% open. All points within a 15 mile diameter circle centered at the River Bridge south of Kearney. Includes Overland Pits, Fort Kearney State Park, Platte River, Odessa Bridge, Kearney Cemetery, Cottonmill Lake, Robinsons Woods, Wood River area, and city streets. River bottomlands 40%, roadsides 15%, parks 40%, and town streets 5%. Two parties, seven in one, six in the other. Total party-hours 19 (9½ on foot, 9½ by car); total party miles 130 (7 on foot,

123 by car). Marian G. Brown, Randy Brown, Linda Brown, Laurie Brown, Mrs. Kay Mastin, Ronnie Morrow, John C. W. Bliese, Margaret Bliese, Norma Radford, Mrs. Ethel Hansen, Merlin Feikert, George W. Brown (reporter).

Lincoln. December 27, 1964. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. 14° to 34°, wind SE 16 mph, skies mostly clear. Three parties, total party miles 142.5, 17.5 on foot, 125 by car. Total party hours 20.5, 16 by foot, 4.5 by car. Oscar Alexis, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Keim, Carol Kinch, Dr. Rosalind Morris, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Pritchard, Hazel Scheiber, Ralph Harrington (reporter). Birds seen during the count period but not on count day were Myrtle Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Sparrow Hawk, Robin, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Omaha. Because the southwestern quadrant overlapped some of the area included in the Plattsmouth count, and the eastern half was in Iowa, these two parts and the remaining area (northwestern quadrant) are shown separately. The 15 mile diameter circle was centered on Offut Lake (about 3 miles north of the junction of the Platte and Missouri Rivers). The SW quadrant included the Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area; the NW quadrant Fontenelle Forest and the Gifford Game Preserve; and the East half Gifford Preserve (Iowa) and Lake Manawa State Park.

December 26, 1964. -2° to 22°, wind at 6 A.M. 4 mph from NW, at noon calm. About 2 inches of snow on the ground. Total party hours 251, 157.5 on foot, 59 by car, 34.5 at feeders. Total miles 367.5, 945.5 by foot, 273 by car. L. F. Knowles, L. W. Powell, Jr., Miss E. B. Appleby, E. T. Stacy, Rev. A. J. Dachauer, H. Kellog, Mrs. J. Pluta, Miss M.

Dennison, J. M. Malkowski, G. H. LeDioyt, R. Le Dioyt of Omaha; J. E. Plank of Council Bluffs; C. H. Swanson, Mrs. E. L. Kelley, Mrs. S. L. Murphy, and Mrs. J. S. Comstock of Bellevue; and Mrs. D. Wood, Mrs. P. Heineman, and Mrs. J. Schneider of Plattsmouth.

Plattsmouth. December 29, 1964. From Platte River on the north and Missouri River on the east to 7 miles west and 5 miles south of Plattsmouth, including the Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area, the city of Plattsmouth, and the Plattsmouth Cemetery. 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. Cloudy, heavy fog until 10:30 A.M. 33° to 38°. Seven observers. Five miles on foot, 56 miles by car. Loren Heineman, Jean Schneider, Loris Long, Florence Fouchek, Treva Burd, Lena Hansell, Gertrude Wood (reporter). Pintail (5), Green-winged Teal (1), and Common Goldeneye (3) were seen during the count week, but not on the count. The Long-eared Owl was seen on the Management Area and studied at close range for twenty minutes. The Red-breasted Mergansers were seen near the mouth of the Platte. Three of

the Horned Larks reported were Northern, seen in with Prairies.

Scottsbluff. December 29, 1964. 15 mile circle centered on the North Platte River bridge south of Broadway in Scottsbluff. 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Partly cloudy, wind west, 9 to 51 mph, 17° to 37°. Lakes and ponds frozen, river open. Mrs. Harry Banghart, Lydia Bolz, Mr. and Mrs. David Hughson, Mrs. Alvin Vance, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Young, Mrs. J. W. Brashers, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Witschy (reporter). Ten observers in four parties; total party hours 33, four on foot, 29 by car. Total party miles 274, 9 on foot, 265 by car.

Stapleton. January 2, 1965. 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. 5° to 42°. Light breeze, clear. Covered river valley, sandhills, and tableland. Habitats: wooded, fields, grassland, and swampy areas. Earl Glandon.

Both Mrs. Jones (Hastings) and Mr. Harrington (Lincoln) commented, when sending in their reports, that there seemed to be fewer birds this year, and Mrs. Viehmeyer made the same comment with the Fall Report.

	Scotts bluff	Staple ton	Kear ney	Hast ings	Lin coln	Platts mouth	SW	Omaha NW	East
Canada Goose	125		75			110	88		
White-fronted Goose						1	1		
Snow Goose						4	7		
Blue Goose						1	1		
Mallard	27,500	24	84	11	32	1,700	624		
Gadwall				2					
Pintail	5								
Canvasback						1			
Common Goldeneye	1			2					
Common Merganser	2					8	16		
Red-breasted Merganser						25			
Goshawk						1			
Sharp-shinned Hawk					3	3	3		1
Cooper's Hawk					1	1	1		
Red-tailed Hawk	2		1		9	5	6	17	10

	Scotts bluff	Staple ton	Kear ney	Hast ings	Lin coln	Platts mouth	SW	Omaha NW	East
Rough-legged Hawk		3	1			5	1	1	13
Golden Eagle	2								
Bald Eagle			8			3	3		
Marsh Hawk	2	1	6	2	4	8	8	1	12
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	6	1		1	1	5	5
Greater Prairie Chicken		4							
Sharp-tailed Grouse		1							
Bobwhite	20		50	2		2			2
Ring-necked Pheasant	9	2	3		21	3			
Turkey	16								
Killdeer	11		4				1		
Common Snipe	2								
Rock Dove						36	10	5	124
Mourning Dove				26	14				10
Screech Owl	1								
Great Horned Owl	3	3	6		10	2			
Long-eared Owl						1			
Short-eared Owl								8	2
Belted Kingfisher	1		3		1		2	1	
Flicker, Yellow-shafted	3	1	5	3	5	5	18	27	9
Red-shafted	29		5				3		
Red-bellied Woodpecker			3	4	3	9	20	10	9
Red-headed Woodpecker							2		1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1				1
Hairy Woodpecker	3	1	1	3	6	7	10	5	6
Downy Woodpecker	4		11	15	13	9	27	18	16
Horned Lark	74	13	215	10	65	128	7		12
Blue Jay	9		1	4	22	34	20	9	20
Black-billed Magpie	148	10	7						
Common Crow	4	8	8	15	975	37	51	12	17
Pinon Jay	20								
Black-capped Chickadee	23	5	38	102	82	34	105	150	105
Tufted Titmouse					4	9	9	7	8
White-breasted Nuthatch			3	17	30	10	17	8	10
Red-breasted Nuthatch				2	2				
Brown Creeper	1		4	2	5	6	4	1	
Winter Wren								3	
Brown Thrasher				1	1				
Robin	69		16	4		6	3		1
Eastern Bluebird			14			3	3		
Townsend's Solitaire	4								
Golden-crowned Kinglet			2		20	7	6	1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1				
Cedar Waxwing			1	3		5	2		
Northern Shrike	3								2
Starling	2,861	37	600	100	185	78	809	400	472
House Sparrow	814	11	347	200	1,000	400	2,614	500	707
Meadowlark	w54	x10	w149	w11	x38	e102	e1	e16	e7

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Inc.
Brownville, Nebraska 68321
Return Requested

	Scotts bluff	Staple ton	Kear ney	Hast ings	Lin coln	Platts mouth	SW	Omaha NW	East
Redwinged Blackbird	986	5	11	5	1				6
Brewer's Blackbird					1				
Common Grackle					3		1		
Cardinal			12	30	16	38	71	45	81
House Finch	16								
Pine Siskin	1					2			
American Goldfinch	34	26	24		88	36	20	3	31
Savannah Sparrow	2								
Junco, Slate-colored	33		46	25	199	220	300	125	208
Oregon	25	1		3				7	
Tree Sparrow	53	45	339	10	226	245	538	180	266
Harris' Sparrow		1	58	50	230		93	22	1
White-crowned Sparrow	60		9						
White-throated Sparrow								1	
Fox Sparrow	1								
Swamp Sparrow	4								
Song Sparrow	2		1	1	4	7	11	5	18
Lapland Longspur				2,000	2,000	14			
Total Species	46	22	39	33	38	46	43	30	33
Individuals	32,844	213	2,177	2,666	5,311	3,372	5,538	1,593	2,193
Grand Total for State, 82 species; for Omaha area, 52 species.									

Comments

Yesterday, (January 4) I rode to the lake south of Superior, which of course is in Kansas, and was amazed to find it swarming with ducks and geese. Canada Geese and Mallards were the only positive ones I could identify. We have had no snow and I suppose the milo and sorgo fields are making good feeding grounds.

The geese and ducks have wintered on the lake south of town. I saw them yesterday (February 26).—Mrs. Earle Lionberger, Superior.

We have had more over-wintering ducks here at the Plattsouth Waterfowl Refuge than we have had in past years. We have also had a

large concentration of hawks at the Refuge this winter.—Mrs. Donald Wood, Plattsouth.

About dusk January 13, 1964, I saw from a bus on Interstate 80 about a mile west of the Waverly Interchange what I took to be a couple of Short-eared Owls flying along maybe 20 feet off the ground. One clapped its wings together beneath its body, much like a trained seal applauding itself. When I got home I checked Bent and found that he reported this action, but usually as a part of courtship and while high in the air or diving from a height. *R. C. Cortelyou, Omaha.*